



# Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 64

May 2013

## Leaving China?

Did you know that you can end your enrollment with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) by visiting the [step.state.gov](http://step.state.gov) site? If you previously submitted a paper enrollment form to the U.S. consulate, you may end your enrollment by sending an email request to: [ShanghaiACS@state.gov](mailto:ShanghaiACS@state.gov).

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Shanghai ACS has recently had reports of a new scam targeting foreign students and their families.

— Your child's "school nurse" calls to say your child has been admitted to the hospital for a sudden emergency. The caller knows your name, cell phone number, child's name, the name of your child's teacher, the name of the child's school, and perhaps even more personal information. In this conversation, or a subsequent call, they say your child's condition is worsening, and they put the "doctor" on the line. The "doctor" says your child needs immediate surgery and a deposit of 40,000 RMB is required, either via bank transfer or by paying a "hospital representative" outside the hospital gate. You comply with these directions, only to later find out that your child is safe at school and the callers were scammers. If you receive such a call, verify by calling the school or hospital directly, and do not transfer or wire any money until you receive such verification.

### How to Protect Yourself?

⇒ Verify any calls using the direct number for the school or hospital.

⇒ Never transfer any money electronically unless you are able to directly verify the information with the school, hospital, or consulate.

While petty theft remains the most prevalent type of crime Westerners encounter in China, the diversity and sophistication of scams is increasing. Here is some general safety advice for your reference.

- ⇒ Shanghai is a big city with big city problems.
- ⇒ It is not a good idea at home; it is probably not a good idea here.
- ⇒ If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- ⇒ Always be aware of your surroundings. Look at the people close to you and watch out for "accidental" nudging and touching.
- ⇒ Think about leaving valuable and extra cash behind in a safe place when you go out.
- ⇒ Don't carry all your valuable, cash, credit cards, etc in one pocket or bag – distribute.
- ⇒ Enter into your phone: 110 (police) and 962288 (bilingual assistance).

## Air Quality Monitor at U.S. Consulate Shanghai

The U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai has a PM2.5 air quality monitor to measure fine particles in the air. Data from this monitor are used to calculate the Air Quality Index (AQI) which provides a health resource for the American community. If you would like to view our data, please look for us on Twitter ([@cgshanghaiair](https://twitter.com/cgshanghaiair)) or view our website at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/airmonitor.html>.

## Travel Warnings and Alerts

*Security reminder: It is advisable that you and your family review your personal security profile and be aware of your surroundings at all times.*

Since our previous Newsletter, the U.S. Department of State has issued new **Travel Warnings** for the following countries:

<a href="#">Mauritania</a>	05/21/2013
<a href="#">Cote d'Ivoire</a>	05/16/2013
<a href="#">Eritrea</a>	05/10/2013
<a href="#">Central African Republic</a>	05/10/2013
<a href="#">Libya</a>	05/09/2013
<a href="#">Congo, Democratic Republic of the</a>	04/24/2013

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country danger-

ous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. This information is available at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html).

Since our previous Newsletter, the U.S. Department of State has issued new **Travel Alerts**:

<a href="#">Egypt</a>	05/15/2013
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Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Natural disasters, terrorist at-

tacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert.

This information is available at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_1766.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html).

The most up-to-date information regarding permitted and **prohibited items** on flights can be viewed online at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).

For additional information, please visit "**Americans Traveling Abroad**" on the website of the U.S. Department of State [http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans\\_1252.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html).

## Upcoming Holidays & Other Closures

A full list of all of our closures is online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html>. The ACS Unit will be **CLOSED** to the public on:

<b><u>June 12, 2013, Wednesday</u></b>	<b>Dragon Boat Festival</b>	端午节	Duānwǔ Jié
<b><u>June 21, 2013, Friday</u></b>	<b>Administrative Closure</b>	行政管理日	Xíngzhèng Guǎnlǐ Rì
<b><u>July 4, 2013, Thursday</u></b>	<b>Independence Day</b>	独立日	Dúlì Rì
<b><u>July 26, 2013, Friday</u></b>	<b>Administrative Closure</b>	行政管理日	Xíngzhèng Guǎnlǐ Rì

## American Citizen Services (ACS) Contact Information

U.S. Consulate General, Shanghai, China, 1038 West Nanjing Road, 8/F  
Westgate Mall 梅龙镇广场 (Méi Lóng Zhèn Guǎng Chǎng)

Routine Services: 8:00am - 11:30am

Passport Pickups: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Mon - Fri \*Closed on Wednesday afternoons, weekends, and holidays.

After Hours Emergencies: (86-21) 3217-4650

Homepage: [shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html](http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html)



## Local News: PM 2.5 Emerging as Major Pollutant in City

*(From Yang Jian, Shanghai Daily, May 23, 2013)*

THE PM2.5 particles are becoming a major pollutant in the city, surpassing former culprits like sulfur and nitrogen dioxides, Shanghai officials said yesterday.

PM2.5 refers to airborne particles which are smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter. They are the main cause of urban smog and are harmful to human health.

Between January and May, the city recorded 42 heavily polluted days with the PM2.5 density reaching the highest 200 micrograms per cubic meter on May 11. The city's Air Pollution Index rates it as "serious pollution."

"The former major pollutants - sulfur and nitrogen dioxides - have been decreasing since 2008, but the PM2.5 density has been rising," said

Bai Guoqiang, deputy chief engineer with the Shanghai Environmental Protection Bureau.

The average density of PM2.5 is 56 microgram per cubic meter, some 60 percent over the national standard.

During the most severely polluted days in January, the PM2.5 density reached 85 microgram per cubic meter and surged to its highest at 201.

"Some 80 percent of the PM2.5 pollution comes from the city, especially from traffic and heavy industries," Bai said.

Flying dust, power plants and agricultural produce are other major pollutants.

The burning of straws, sandstorms and firecrackers add to the city's pollution as well, Bai said.

The factories in Shanghai's neighboring cities are also a major contributor to the poor air quality in the city, Zhang Quan, director of the bureau, said.

"One of the major culprits of the country's air pollution is the densely distributed chemical factories in east and central Chinese cities," Zhang said.

He said the city must work with the neighboring provinces to curb emissions as it is difficult for Shanghai alone to improve the quality of air.

He proposed establishing a regional commission to supervise factories and a system to alert neighboring cities whenever heavy pollutants are detected in the air. Shanghai will start issuing PM2.5 forecasts later this year, initially offering 24-hour forecasts before progressing to 48-hour outlook.

## Local News: Metro, Maglev Ride Made Easier

*(From Zha Minjie, Shanghai Daily, May 23, 2013)*

The Shanghai subway and maglev operators will issue a common Maglev & Metro pass tickets from today.

It combines Metro's one-day-pass and a maglev ticket.

For 55 yuan (US\$9), pass users will be entitled to a single journey ride on the maglev and a full-day use of the city's metro.

A 85-yuan pass allows a two-way journey on the maglev, the Shanghai Metro operator announced yesterday.

Passengers can use the tickets on

the subways and maglev separately. They can keep them as souvenirs after completing the trip, officials said.

Tickets will be sold at 44 main subway stations like People's Square, Lujiazui, Longyang Road and Hongqiao Airport Terminal 2 besides Pudong International Airport on the maglev line.

Officials said passengers should check the expiry date printed on the back of the tickets. If the pass is not used, full refunds can be had at the maglev stops on Longyang Road and Pudong Airport stations.

The current price for a single journey maglev ticket is 50 yuan and 80 yuan for a round trip. The maglev links Longyang Road station on Metro Line 2 to Pudong International Airport. Shanghai transport card users pay just 40 yuan for a single ride on the maglev, while a one-day subway pass costs 18 yuan.

